

Exploitation d'un grand cé tacé au Paléolithique ancien (Re: <geen onderwerp>

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Hi Everyone
I have been surfing and found a blog on the Aquatic Ape theory, but the person who has spoken out about it, is being attacked by those who don't like AAT. So i don't know if anyone here wants to help him out, if not i will have a go.
<http://www.blog.sethroberts.net/2008/05/01/the-aquatic-ape-hypothesis/>
William

Thanks a lot, William.
I just sent them this (I hope they'll approve it):
Somebody wants to defend AAT on the basis of:

1. Humans have subcutaneous fat, other primates don't. Other aquatic mammals do. The fat serves as insulation.
2. Humans have almost no fur, other primates do. Other aquatic mammals don't. Fur creates drag in the water.
3. Humans are bipedal. Walking upright keeps the head out of the water, allowing breathing.

These 3 arguments can easily be dismissed:

1. Sea otters have no SC fat.
2. They have an extremely dense fur.
3. They're not bipedal.

And these arguments can be repeated for a lot of other (semi)aquatic mammals.
The point is: most features that discern humans from chimps are *in different combinations* typically seen in waterside mammals that spend a lot of their time in the water: large brain, high sodium, iodine, DHA & water needs, head & spine & legs on 1 line, dexterity & stone use, external nose etc.
Another point is: all H.erectus fossils apparently lay next to shellfish.

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It's obvious that *H. erectus* did not disperse on ³Savannahstan² to other continents as some PAs postulate, but along the coasts & from there inland along rivers & lakes. The Mojokerto skull 1.8 Ma lay in marine sediments in a river delta, the Dmanisi population 1.8 Ma lived next to abundant lacustrine resources etc. Why would a dextrous intelligent tool-using thick-enameled omnivorous ape not have collected part of his foods from the water, esp. cray- & shellfish??

Many people discussing AAT still think AAT is about australopithecines or human ancestors millions or years ago, but this only shows how uninformed they are.

I suggest that people trying to discuss AAT should first inform properly, eg, P. Tobias

<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~mvaneech/outthere.htm>

<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~mvaneech/Symposium.html>

<http://users.ugent.be/%7Emvaneech/Verhaegen> et al. 2007. Econiche of Homo.pdf

[http://users.ugent.be/%7Emvaneech/Verhaegen Munro. New directions in palaeoanthropology.pdf](http://users.ugent.be/%7Emvaneech/Verhaegen%20Munro.%20New%20directions%20in%20palaeoanthropology.pdf)

or google ³aquariboreal?

In any case, it's likely IMO that our semi-aquatic phase was once rather profound (otherwise we wouldn't be able to dive 50 metres deep & more than 5 minutes), but also that it didn't last very long (otherwise we hadn't returned so completely to the land) & that it didn't happen millions of years ago (otherwise we hadn't preserved so many (semi)aquatic features).

I guess it happened at some time during the Pleistocene when our ancestral Homo population spread along the coasts (so-called "Out of Africa 1"?), possibly somewhere around the Indian Ocean & not unlikely on offshore islands (SE.Asia? Flores? Danakil? Andamans? ...).

During the Ice Ages, sea levels were lower, there must have been large areas on the continental shelves where cray- & shellfish were abundant. These foods have lots of poly-unsaturated fatty acids (DHA etc.) that are essential to brain growth, and that were easily procurable by tool-using & thick-enameled omnivore.

No wonder this phase (100 m below sea level now?) didn't leave many traces in the fossil & archaeol.record.

And no wonder their descendants trekked into the continents along the rivers where their diet included cattails (traces on neandertal tools) & where they caught small & large prey in shallow waters & butchered stranded whales & other sea mammals, eg,

– M.Gutierrez cs 2001 "Exploitation d'un grand cétacé au Paléolithique ancien: le site de Dungo V à Baía Farta (Benguela, Angola)" *Comptes Rendus CRAS* 332:357–362,

– CB Stringer cs 2008 "Neanderthal exploitation of marine mammals in Gibraltar" *PNAS* 22.9.08.

Some Savanna Fool thought he should "answer":

We know that your theory of AAT only has to do with humans ...

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Why don't these fools inform??

Are they too stupid to *read*??

Don't they know the difference between H. erectus & H. sapiens??

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